

2PBB Quarter-Final Match

Scott Leonard/Josh Hudson v Tom Persons/Randy Ronning

A beautiful Sunday morning at Haggin Oaks McKenzie greeted a 4-some that contained 2 retirees and 2 middle-age young guns. Surprisingly, Scott and Josh (SJ) decided to join Tom and Randy (TR) on the 3/2 combo tees. Neither Scott or Josh had ever played these tees and were ecstatic at how short some of the holes were....until they played them.

Group agreed to winter rules (card length) and extra holes (if course allowed it).

Pops were: Randy 0 Tom 2 Josh 0 Scott 2

Hole 1: Par 5: Scott and Josh win the flip and get honors on the first tee. They both then sacrifice a ball to the range golf gods along the left side and give the first hole to Tom and Randy by posting a quad and triple. Tom 2-putted for a GIR par. TR +1.

Hole 2: Par 4: Josh makes an incredible bunker shot for a gimme sandy par and then Tom responds by draining a 20' putt from the fringe for a chippy par to halve the hole. TR +1

Hole 3: Par 3: A bunch of terrible putts by all. Hole halved with a group of bogies. TR +1.

Hole 4: Par 5: Tom and Randy have birdie putts from 12' on the same line, above the hole. After Scott runs his 45' birdie putt by and then misses his 15' come-back par putt, both T&R run their birdie putts well beyond the hole. After Randy misses his 3-footer, Tom makes his 5-footer to win the hole . TR +2

Hole 5: Par 4. Only pop hole on the front 9 and both Tom and Scott are popping. After 4 mediocre drives, Randy somehow hits the green thru the trees from 200 yards out. Scott hits a tree on his approach (stays short of the hazard) and then hits his 3rd onto the green. After Josh gives Randy the speed and line of his putt, Randy secures his GIR par leaving Scott with a chance to win the hole from 30'. Scott misses par but slides in a 3-footer to push. TR +2

Hole 6: Par 3: Scott only player to hit the green and has 15' for birdie. Randy coazies his chippy birdie to a gimme par. Scott leaves his putt short but makes another 3-footer to halve the hole. TR +2

Hole 7: Par 4: After both Scott and Josh miss the green with their approach shots and then miss their par putts, Tom and Randy get GIR pars to win the hole. TR +3

Hole 8: Par 4: Randy hits approach to 15'. Scott had driven his ball to just 50 yds from the green but in a soggy area. Chunked his approach. Both Josh and Scott missed makeable par putts. Randy didn't convert his birdie but his GIR par wins the hole. TR +4

Hole 9: Par 4: Terrible drives by all with woodies active across the board. After reaching the green in 3, nobody converts their long par putts. Hole halved with bogies. TR + 4 at the turn.

At this point in the match, Tom and Randy were ham and egging it perfectly. They hadn't given up honors since winning the 1st hole and were hoping to keep the momentum going. Their hope was that Josh didn't find his tee game, which up to that point, was a dismal display of worm-burners. That was about to change, however.

Hole 10: Par 4: Tom, Randy and Scott have birdie putts. Josh cans his 15' sandy par putt. Scott, closest of the bunch, misses his 20' bird. Tom 3-jacks but Randy converts a 2-footer to push. TR + 4

Hole 11: Par 5: Josh finally finds his driver swing and blast a 300 yd drive out to the 200 yd marker. After a couple loose shots, he does manage to get up and down for a par (his first par of the day without being in the sand). Randy and Scott have 20-foot birdie putts to win the hole. Both miss their putts. Hole is pushed. TR +4 with 7 to go.

Hole 12: Par 3: Tom and Josh hit the green. Josh's 20' putt digs deep into the cup but gets spit back out. Tom then lags his 15' birdie putt up for a gimme par to push. TR + 4 with 6.

Hole 13: Par 4: Josh and Scott hit great drives and both he and Scott hit approach shots leaving long birdie putts. Randy hits driver from the forest on the right to just short of green and chips up to 3-feet. Neither Scott nor Josh convert their birdies. Randy makes his par putt to push. TR +4 with 5 to go.

Hole 14: Par 3: Tom hits one up just short of the green. Randy barely covers the ravine. Josh skanks one up just short of the ravine. Scott bales right but a soft bounce keeps it in play. After descent chips, Scott and Josh end up with makeable par putts inside 15' but both miss. Tom had chipped up to about 6' for his par putt. Tom drains the putt, wins the hole and secures a 5 & 4 victory.

The day was filled with good shots, bad shots, ugly shots, and brilliant shots. Never any controversies. Just good, old fashioned weekend golf amongst friends with the stakes a bit higher than normal. Hindsight being 20-20, Scott and Josh might have been better off playing the 3-Oak or even the 3-4 Oak combos to get a few more pops.

Final Tally:

Tom 43 – 41: 84

Randy 41 – 37: 78

Scott 47 – 40: 87

Josh 49 – 41: 90